

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-8, 14-16 and 18 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 17 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new claims have been added.

35 U.S.C. §112

The rejection to claim 19 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of that claim without prejudice or disclaimer.

In claim 9, the limitation "said generated key information" should be "said generated first key information". Although claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, this correction has been incorporated into claim 16 which has been written in independent form. In addition, claim 18 has been written in independent form so as to be in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9, 14 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Heer (U.S. Patent No. 5,999,629) in view of Imai (U.S. Patent No. 5,512,977) and further in view of Stokes (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,861). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Heer in view of Imai in further view of Stokes in further view of Hartman (U.S. Patent No. 5,224,166). Claims 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Heer in view of Imai in further view of Stokes and in further view of Davis (U.S. Patent 5,805,712). Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Heer in view of Imai in further view of Stokes in further view of Nagai (U.S. Patent No. 6,571,263).

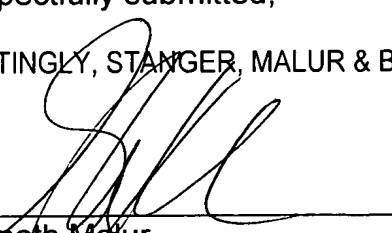
The rejections under this section have been rendered moot by the rewriting of claims 16 and 18 into independent form. The remaining pending claims depend from claim 18. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone with any questions.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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